

REMARKS

Applicants apply for reissue of the original '375 patent which is inoperative to fully protect their invention because of claiming less than they had a right to claim. Claims 1 and 4 of the original claims are amended and claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 of the original claims are unchanged.

For example, claim 1 states that the transverse knives are secured to the girders "by welding." This unnecessarily limits the scope of the protection of independent claim 1. Similarly, dependent claims 2-6 are unnecessarily limited. Independent claim 1 also recites the shape of the openings in the transverse knives as being "essentially circular or oval shape." Original Claims 1-6 of U.S. Patent No. 6,367,375 have been amended in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(b)(2) and (d). Material added to patent Claims 1-6 are underlined, while deletions from patent Claims 1-6 are bracketed. Claims 7 - 16 are added and are marked "new".

This Preliminary Amendment includes a separate document entitled Support for Claim Changes pursuant to § 1.173(c), identifying examples of support in the disclosure of U.S. Patent No. 6,367,375 for the amendments to the original patent claims and for the new claims. Attached is a claim chart showing the support for the subject matter of new claims 7-16, and amended claims 1 and 4.


Early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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STATUS AND SUPPORT FOR CLAIM CHANGES

Claims 1-16 are currently pending in the application.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to delete some terms in the claim that unnecessarily limit the scope of claim 1, and because of their dependency, claims 2-6 are amended in the same manner. For example, claim 1 specifies that the transverse knives are welded to the frame girders. See column 4, lines 8-9 of the '375 patent. Means other than welding can be used, and there is no special advantage in welding the connection. Accordingly, the reference to welding in claim 1 has been deleted. For the same reason, the reference to welding has been canceled from claim 4.

Further, claim 1 of the patent recites "at least a number . . . are essentially circular or oval shape." The broader definition of the relationship of the size of the openings relative to the longitudinal knives, as described at column 4, at lines 15-16, is supported by the specification.

Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 are not changed.

Claims 7-16 are directed to the cutting frame *per se*. New claim 7 defines the cutting frame including a pair of parallel girders, and the interconnection of the

knives with the girders and each other. Support for the size of the openings is found throughout the specification, including column 4, lines 12-16.

The fixing pin in claims 8 and 9 is described at column 5, lines 17-28.

Claims 7, 10 and 11 refer to the openings in the transverse knives, and recite that the openings are larger than the cross section of the longitudinal knives. See column 4, lines 15-16. Claims 8 and 9 are directed to the fixing pin that secures the longitudinal knives in the cutting frame. See column 4, lines 22-25.

Claims 12-14 are directed to the extension element at the ends of the longitudinal knives. In claim 13, the extension elements are described as "U" shaped. See Figs. 6, 7 and 12, and column 5, lines 49-63.

Claims 15 and 16 are directed to the shape of the openings in the transverse knives, and are dependent from claim 1. The specification supports these claims at column 4, lines 26-33.